1:Spier E-5 (1929-1932) 1933 NT15 River Yumans NT15
Maricopa

fresh, the pulp might be squeezed between the hands, the liquor strained through a cloth, and boiled to a syrup which was used on corn bread or wheat tortillas. The melons were of some importance in providing a fresh food during the winter. They were stored in the storage houses adjacent to the dwellings, where they may have been covered with sand to keep through the winter. They were not ordinarily stored by burial in sand in the fashion of the lower Colorado tribes, but this was resorted to if they were to be hidden from the enemy.

HUNTING

The semi-desert environment of the Maricopa provided only a meagre range of animals for food. Rabbits and other rodents were relatively abundant, but large game was scarce in the immediate vicinity. The larger mammals, such as deer and mountain sheep, could be hunted in the mountains to the south and west, but even there were by no means plentiful. A secondary source of flesh food was nearer home in the form of fish, with which the streams were well stocked at certain seasons. Consequently the Maricopa were primarily hunters of small game, chiefly rabbits, and were also fishermen. They had little interest in ranging far from home for larger game.

Rabbits, especially jackrabbits, bulked as large as mesquite in the food supply. In addition they took deer, mountain sheep, antelope, peccary, beaver, prairie dogs, doves, turkey, quail, and even made use of turtles, honey, and caterpillars, but none of these were regular foodstuffs. They stopped at nothing except outright carnivores, as well as dogs, badgers, gophers, ground squirrels, and porcupines, nor did they eat bird eggs.

Possibly because of a general indifference to hunting, tabus and rites were few. There was no notion here, as among the Havasupai, that wasting game made the hunter ill. A lad was prohibited from eating his kill, however, and mountain sheep hunting was something altogether special. Deer hunting was less restricted, but was preceded by a rite.

A lad dared not eat any animal, bird, or fish he caught. He brought it home and butchered it, but he had to give it away to